



International Association of Fire Chiefs

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May 5, 2004

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I congratulate you for introducing the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004 (H.R. 4155). The IAFC endorses this legislation as an important measure to protect the public from cigarette-ignited fires.

Established in 1873, the IAFC is a powerful network of more than 12,000 chief fire and emergency officers. Our members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation.

Our members are dedicated as much to preventing fires as they are to extinguishing them. That is why the IAFC has consistently endorsed legislation to promote fire-safe cigarettes. In testifying before Congress in 1990, an IAFC representative noted that the misuse of smoking materials was the leading cause of civilian fire deaths in this country. That fact remains strikingly true today. By directing the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a strong federal fire safety standard for cigarettes, H.R. 4155 would bring this country one step closer to reducing the number of preventable fire deaths.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry L. Briese".

Garry L. Briese, CAE
Executive Director

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